

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03867 111256Z

45

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

L-03 MC-02 ACDA-19 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-20

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 DRC-01 DODE-00 /148 W

----- 102568

R 111238Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0868

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA POUCH

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CONFIDENTIAL KUWAIT 3867

FROM AMB WOLLE MUSCAT

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MMOL, MPOL, ECON, PFOR, MU

SUBJ: OMAN ANNOUNCE PURCHASES MILITARY PLANES, MISSILES

REF: MUSCAT A-47 (NOTAL), KUWAIT 3442 (NOTAL)

1. OMANI DEPUTY MINISTER DEFENCE ANNOUNCED AUGUST 31
SIGNATURE CONTRACT WORTH 36 MILLION UK POUNDS (APPROX.
\$85 MILLION) WITH BRITISH AIRCRAFT CORP FOR PURCHASE
12 JAGUAR STRIKE AIRCRAFT, AS WELL AS SECOND CONTRACT WORTH
35 MILLION UK POUNDS FOR 28 RAPIER MISSILE "FIRE UNITS," ALSO
WITH BAC. THE RAPIERS WERE DESCRIBED AS ONE OF MOST ADVANCED
LOW-LEVEL AIR DEFENCE SYSTEMS.

2. BBC ANNOUNCEMENT SEPT 4 GAVE SAME NUMBERS UNITS BUT
PLACED VALUE CONTRACTS AT 45 MILLION POUNDS FOR JAGUARS AND
47 MILLION FOR RAPIERS. MINDEF PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
REID ANDERSON STATES BBC ANNOUNCEMENT BASED ON COMPANY PRESS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 03867 111256Z

RELEASE, AND PROBABLY INCLUDES SPARES AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT.

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY REACTIONS RECEIVED FROM HOST COUNTRIES OF ADDRESSEES.

4. COMMENT: ASIDE FROM SUBSTANTIAL FISCAL IMPACT THESE PURCHASES OVER NEXT TWO YEARS, THERE MAY BE POLITICAL FALLOUT AS WELL. ITS NEIGHBORS MAY NOT VIEW THESE WEAPONS IN DEFENSIVE LIGHT THAT OMAN WISHES TO PORTRAY THEM, ALTHOUGH IT WILL BE A GREAT MANY YEARS BEFORE THERE ARE OMANIS SUFFICIENTLY TRAINED TO USE THEM AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS ARE UNLIKELY TO PERMIT THEIR CITIZENS TO MAN THEM IN ANY AGGRESSIVE CAUSE. MILITARY VALUE OF THIS SYSTEM IS MARGINAL: AIR ATTACK FROM PDRY HAS BEEN POSSIBLE FOR A LONG TIME, AND WILL STILL BE POSSIBLE FOR MANY MONTHS. IF OMAN'S NORTHERN NEIGHBORS DEVELOP AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS, THEY WOULD HAVE SAME MANPOWER PROBLEMS, BUT, OVER THE LONG RUN, ARE FAR MORE CAPABLE FINANCIALLY OF SUSTAINING AN ARMS RACE. BUT IMMEDIATE IMPACT WHICH BEARS WATCHING MOST CAREFULLY IS REACTION OF COUNTRIES WHO HAVE GIVEN AID TO OMAN. IF THEY VIEW THESE PURCHASES AS INORDINATE, COST OF THIS DECISION TO OMAN COULD BE SUBSTANTIAL AND SERIOUS.

STOLTZFUS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, AIR DEFENSE, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KUWAIT03867
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740253-0365
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740956/aaaabvoe.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MUSCAT A-47 (NOTAL), KUWAIT 3442 (NO, TAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OMAN ANNOUNCE PURCHASES MILITARY PLANES, MISSILES
TAGS: MMOL, MPOL, ECON, PFOR, MU, UK, KU, BRITISH AIRCRAFT CORP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005